

virtue which would make the country at large a single constituency, instead of having it divided into a multitude of small ones, would remedy the crying faults of the present method, by doing away with its pettiness. Men would not need to obtain the patronage of a local clique or political coterie; they would often be selected on their own deserts, and not by favouritism; they would be returned as national representatives rather than as local or party delegates. Nor could local or party interests suffer, for the large majority would continue favourable to local or party men but "almost every one honourably distinguished, though he had no local influence and was not identified with any political party, would have fair chance of membership." The very fact that the more enlightened minorities would be sure to look out for "the ablest heads and noblest hearts," would, by the influence thus exercised, render majorities circumspect also in their search for candidates. At present, says Mill, men are independent thought or action have but a very sentimental regard to the "tendency" the natural tendency of representative government, as well as of modern civilisation, is towards collective mediocrity." Again, another end of importance which would be attained by the innovation is the providing for "that great social function of antagonism for which there is no provision in any existing democracy, but which in no Government can remain permanently unfulfilled without condemning that Government to infallible degeneration and decay." What is it which oppressed and finally destroyed the ancient republics which is the danger to the modern commonwealths, but the tendency of that particular power which is the strongest to become the sole power and overrule all opposing influences. Then when a single party has the field to itself, improvement as a matter of course ceases, stagnation follows, decline rapidly ensues. The representation of minorities would make permanent provision for that function of antagonism which is as essential to the health of a State as exercise is to the individual body. It is the only guarantee against the destruction of the Constitution by the usurpation of a sole power in the State, towards which current events show there is even already a movement here.

and constables, of which class there is a large number, delay or decline to proceed with the transactions of their business unless first treated with opium when called to one's house, even on the most urgent and important affairs. Many wealthy private families keep the opium-pipe and fixtures in readiness for the demands of visitors. They not unusually have a room which is devoted to the smoking of the drug, being provided with a bedstead or platform for the convenience of smokers. The baneful effects of opium-smoking are many and various—social, moral, mental, physical, and pecuniary. It is not designed to dwell at length on the evil influences of this vice. In the first place, opium-smoking sensibly and unfavourably affects one's property and business relations. It is comparatively a very costly vice, the expense being graduated by the circumstances of each case, ranging from a dollar or two to ten or fifteen dollars per month, even in regard to persons not of the highest and the most wealthy classes. The lowest mentioned rate, taking into consideration the low price of labour among the people compared with the price of labour in western countries, is relatively large and burdensome. With all smokers, however, the effect of this vice on their pecuniary standing is by no means to be estimated by the actual outlay in money for the drug. Its seductive influence leads its victims to neglect their business, and consequently, sooner or later, loss or ruin ensues. As the habit grows, so does inattention to business increase. Instances are not rare where the rich have been reduced to poverty and beggary as one of the consequences of their attachment to the opium-pipe. The poor addicted to this vice are oftentimes led to dispose of everything saleable in the hovel where they live. Sometimes, even, men sell their own children and their wives in order to procure the drug, and finally end their career by becoming beggars or thieves. In order to understand the expense of this vice, the western reader needs to be reminded that the vast majority of the Chinese are generally poor, and that wages are invariably low. It is often times, and even usually requires as much time and toil here to earn a dime, as in America it requires to earn a dollar. In the second place, the smoking of opium injures one's health and bodily constitution. Unless taken promptly at the regular time and in the necessary quantity, the victim becomes unable to control himself and to attend to his business. He sneezes. He gapes. Mucus runs from his nose and his eyes. Gripping pains seize him in his bowels. His whole appearance indicates restlessness and misery. If not indulged in smoking and left undisturbed, he usually falls asleep, but his sleep does not refresh and invigorate him. On being aroused, he is himself again, provided he can have his opium; if not, his troubles and pains multiply. He has no appetite for ordinary food; no strength or disposition to labour. Diarrhoea sets in of a dreadful and most painful description, peculiar to opium-smokers; and if still unable to procure opium, the unhappy victim frequently dies in most excruciating agonies. Few, comparatively, recover after the diarrhoea has set in, and, besides, unless they have access to opium, and not always the Chinese, in describing the effects of opium-smoking on the individual, dwell with peculiar emphasis on the weakness and indolence which it induces. The victim is described as unwilling, and usually physically unable to perform anything requiring muscular strength or mental application, except under the excitement of opium. His habits of sleep are changed, it being impossible oftentimes, owing to the overwrought mental excitement induced by the drug, for him to fall asleep in the early part of the night, as others do. Frequently it is nearly or quite morning before he is able to compose himself to rest, waking only late in the forenoon or early in the afternoon. The Chinese have a common saying that the smoker of opium "makes the day night, and the night day," alluding to his unnatural hours of waking and sleeping. His features almost always become strikingly changed, being of an unhealthy, pallid, death-like cast. His shoulders not unfrequently become permanently elevated above their natural level, as when one shrugs them up, at the same time drawing down his head. The smoker is expressively described as "having three heads" from the high and unnatural appearance of his shoulders. His eyes become glaring, and without expression. Most inveterate smokers become spare and thin, owing in part to the direct effects of opium on the human system, and in part to the fact that nutritious food is taken in less quantities and at more irregular intervals, through loss of appetite, than is usual in the case of persons not addicted to this habit. They are styled "opium devils." Men of naturally strong constitutions, and possessed of sufficient property to support them without vexatious care and personal labour, may indulge in this vice with comparative impunity for a considerable period. Such sometimes live to a large old age; but the longer they smoke, the larger is the quantity required to keep them up. Freedom from care and hard labour, as well as plenty of opium, are requisite in order that the smoker may continue in health and attain a respectable longevity. There is, however, a shortening of the lives of rich men who have become victims of this habit as is often asserted, and as seems very natural to suppose, though, doubtless the lives of such men are in fact considerably shortened by the use of opium. They often live to old age, notwithstanding the effects of opium on their physical systems. The greatest destruction of life from this vice in China is unquestionably seen in the poorer and working classes. These are not able to increase the amount of opium in proportion to the need of an augmented supply, and therefore they soon feel the effects of a limited amount on their health. Besides, when ill, they are not only under the necessity of going without the drug, but are often unable to procure physicians and medicines as aids to recovery. In such cases, their previous use of opium renders their illness the more dreadful and intolerable. It has been estimated that the lives of the poor who become slaves to this seductive habit are cut short by it from thirty to fifty years. The use of opium-smoking has long become a gigantic obstacle to the welfare and the prosperity of this people. The consumption of opium is rapidly on the increase in this city as well as in other parts of the empire, and its ravages are becoming more manifest and more awful. Shops where the drug is offered for sale are becoming more and more numerous. The nation is becoming poorer and poorer. The Chinese here have a current saying that "Opium-shops are more numerous than rice-shops." In a certain neighbourhood, three or four years ago, there were twelve shops where opium was retailed, and seven shops where rice, which is the "staff of life" in this part of China, was sold. The number of opium shops in the city and suburbs is estimated to

mount to several thousands. While estimates given by the natives differ greatly in regard to details, they substantially agree in showing the vast number of people who have become slaves to opium. One of the most common inquiries made by confirmed smokers, as well as by the young beginners, of those foreigners who extend to them the vice, and who urge them to break away from it, is, "Can you give me medicine which will cure it?" The Chinese entertain the opinion that since the drug comes from a foreign land foreigners must know some infallible remedy which will counteract its bad effects, or destroy an acquired taste for it. Accordingly, the Chinese have opium medicines in abundance, professedly of foreign origin.

Mr. CLAIKSTONE has made a very small beginning in an undertaking of the greatest importance, which most people would be glad to see accomplished, but which they never hope to see accomplished, if any official manner attempted. The mass of every thinking man, giving up the National Debt as a burden which they will be born without, and without any possibility of being relieved by lightning, though they would welcome some good proposal to lighten it. This feeling is mainly due to two causes. First, 'To the old controversy as to the "sinking fund," and the remembrances and associations it has left behind it. With a deplorable ignorance, we do not say of finance, but of arithmetic, we kept on "the sinking fund" during the whole of the French war, when we were borrowing annually large sums. We were deceived by an arithmetical puzzle, and believed that we were paying our debts, though we borrowed the money with which we paid them. At the close of the war, when we ceased to borrow, and when the sinking fund might have been of use, we swept it away. We ought to have made no attempt to pay debt while we were incurring debt; and we ought to have made that attempt as soon as we ceased to incur debt. During the war we could do nothing; after the war we ought to have kept a surplus revenue, to enable us to do something. In fact, we did in both cases the reverse, and the memory of the two errors will give us a haze of theory to operations on the debt. We have a notion that what we do comes to nothing.

Secondly, There is the grave practical difficulty that debt can only be paid off out of real money, and that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer brings his budget forward, Parliament is scarcely ever willing to leave him any surplus for that purpose. Every tax presses on some one; many great interests have always grave and often well-founded objections to the present impost; they press to be relieved from that impost, and they bind many members in Parliament to press their claims. But there are no members to stir to pay off debt; it is only the nation and posterity who are interested in doing so. Paying off debt means incurring present taxation to avoid future taxation, and no Parliamentary organisation ever presses so unattractively a tax upon any Government. We have to tell the Parliament that we need not fund for payment of debt, and that is a principal reason why we are so hopeless about it.

It is true that a silent process goes on by which the debt is diminished every year. The Treasury sells life annuities, and cancels an equivalent portion of stock, and the sum by which the debt is thus diminished amounts to about £1,000,000 a year. But the necessary limits of this process are very narrow. The number of persons ready and willing to buy such annuities is very small. Very few people are to sink their money in a terminable annuity, and there is no reason to expect that such a class will much augment. All that can be done in that way ought to be done, and therefore, we cannot expect to make in that manner a considerable impression on our debt.

But we are not entirely dependent on the wishes of the fund-holders. The Government is itself a great fundholder. According to the last return £37,307,000 of ordinary Savings' Bank money, and £6,582,000 of Post-office Bank money have been invested in Government securities. It is competent to Parliament to permit the Executive Government to turn from time to time portions of our own stock into terminable annuities, and so increase the present burden in order to diminish the future burden. This is what Mr. Gladstone has begun to do, to a very small extent, in the bill now before Parliament. It proposes to cancel five millions of stock, £2,500,000 of that of the old Savings' Banks and £2,500,000 of that of the Post-office Savings' Banks, and to create terminable annuities to the equivalent amount. This will be an additional annual burden of £45,000, and then a relief for ever from the interest on five millions.

It is of course obvious that this sum, as it augments the present national taxation, will increase the receipts of the National Debt Commissioners, sinking the additional sum as paid. They used to receive a smaller perpetual annuity, and are to receive instead a greater temporary annuity. A new amount of stock will therefore have to be bought with the part of the terminable annuity, which is, in fact, capital, and his sum may be again cancelled yearly; and Mr. Gladstone takes a general power to enable him to effect such additional cancellation.

There is, indeed, no limit to the extent; to which this action upon the debt may be carried, except the willingness of Parliament; and the country to bear the additional burden it imposes. It may, indeed, be said that a run on the savings banks is possible, and it is certainly possible, though no such general run has ever occurred. It is also possible that a gradual drain may be felt in time, if the depositors should, as a class, be tempted by better investments. And, no doubt, in case of a run or a quick drain, terminable annuities, by no means good securities, they cannot be disposed of in a hurry; they are only suitable to a limited class of buyers who are soon satisfied. But this is no reason why such annuities should not be used far more extensively than Mr. Gladstone now proposes to use them. All that is needful is a power of reconversion of terminable annuity into stock, in case of need. Even if that should be necessary, intermediate good will still have been done. If £5,000,000 of stock be converted into £5,000,000 of terminable annuity in 1860, and in 1870 so much of the terminable annuity as then remains is turned back into stock, the nation will still have paid off something. All that part of the annuity which is capital will have been in which much additional money provided out of extra taxation, and will have been used in paying off debt. And a sudden run on these great deposits is very improbable, nor, considering the immense number of the depositors and the impervious state of mind they have, is a withdrawal from change of taste very likely. A reconversion of terminable annuity into stock, though conceivable, would not be likely, even if the plan were extended far

more widely than Mr. Gladstone proposes to extend it now. Upon the whole, this minute scheme for paying off our debt contains a progressive principle and a substantial practicality not to be found in plans infinitely more ambitious.

Deputation from the Council of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science waited on the President of the Board of Trade, on Saturday last, on the subject of the present condition of our mercantile marine. The deputation consisted of the following:—Lord Houghton, Mr. Charles Neale, M.P., Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Belcher, K.C.B., Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C.B., president of the department of economy and trade, Mr. A. Edgar, and Mr. R. M. Hankurst, L.L.D., secretaries to the department, and Mr. G. W. Hastings, general secretary of the association.

Lord Houghton having introduced the deputation, Mr. Pankhurst read the following memorial:

The Council of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science having had under their consideration the facts and arguments set forth in the report of the committee of the department of commerce and trade, which is now before you in its present condition of our mercantile marine, would submit—That the terrible amount of loss of life and the vast sacrifice of property from the shipwreck of our merchant vessels, is a crying evil, and that the Government should take prompt measures taken for their prevention under the authority of the Board of Trade, and the improved instructions for the preservation of life and for the saving of property from shipwreck, and that a useful and solemn inquiry as to the causes of failure in the existing means, and as to what other means may be available for efficient prevention. But that the proper subject and end of navigation, and the special interests of the boat people, should be taken into account, and that the subject should involve another and distinct topic of inquiry, namely, the proper elementary education and training

men for safe, good, and intelligent service and
 educt. It was set forth as an axiom by the late
 Captain Basil Hall, and it is confirmed in general by
 his professional testimony, that in nautical affairs
 nothing is so wasteful as ignorance; while captains
 and masters of the greatest experience in the mercan-
 tile marine declare they can work a vessel more safely
 with fewer men, if these are educated, than with
 a larger crew, if, like the bulk of common
 seamen, they are uneducated, ignorant,
 and untrained. It is adopted as a prin-
 ciple of legislation in relation to children and

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insurance for cargoes, leaving them to find what means they could for their own protection. The insurance companies were not interested in the matter. This was the course of legislation he advocated. The legislative principle was to concentrate responsibility on those who had the best means of preventing accidents. The principle was that full insurance was inexpensive. It was noted that ships were sent out, and the crews were sent out, and captains appointed to command ships, and that the cargo was loaded, and the vessels were insured. The relief given by full insurance from the consequences of ignorance diminished the demand for competent training in education in the maritime service. The element of danger was removable by the statistics of the department. But whereas three out of every four of the masters have been competent, five out of six of the masters have been incompetent, five out of six of the masters were examined and were lost, were men who were unexamined and uncertificated. Men of this sort that are sent out would be a waste of money. They would be sent out with fewer hands and more safely with men who were trained and educated than with men who were untrained and ignorant, that is the common sense of the matter. The statistics of the department, such as the Stepney District School, when preliminary training was given, that three could be made as competent as five for industrial purposes, that is to say, for the purpose of earning their money, that was

ful to give the same protection to those employed in the mercantile marine against exclusion from education that was now given to children employed in larger manufacturing. The Council of Education had been the first to propose that the bill might be referred to the Children's Employment Commissioners, who are now making provision for the extension of educational securities from trade to industry. The shipowners and masters complained that the bill would be a hindrance to trade, and that the sentences objectionable. On behalf of the public the association would complain they were too frequent, too loose, and far too lenient as compared with the sentences which would be given to the crew of a ship of the Royal Navy, in which it was right to state that the sentences on the vessels afloat and employed in dangerous service were not above one-seventh the average of losses amongst the mercantile marine. The loss in cargoes was estimated at £1,000,000 per annum, and the shipping tonnage was £2,000,000 per annum, and had certainly not diminished since that period. The all shipping interest was in the prevention of such waste, as well as the waste of life, and inquiry led

ports to more efficient measures of prevention would be to their advantage, as inquiry and registration to the extent to which it had been made had proved to be to the manufacturing interest of the country.

Hear Admiral Sir E. Beecher said that one of the greatest evils in the mercantile marine is the practice of entering vessels in the navy, and that the only way in the most inferior capacity in the Royal Navy; the second, the admission of foreigners, on the understanding that they will desert or be left behind at the port bound to. Respecting thoroughly educated men, though at first, they may have experience he preferred lands trained for his own years in the interim. Lads of superior education, sufficient of premiums of from £30 to £60 in the forced to make make no other, or left in disgust with mates, captains, or inferior accommodations. Many educated lads could be got if their duties were not made so low, or their treatment so bad. As to the loss of vessels, the mercantile were not to be compared with the navy. Calcutt had witnessed the capture of captains in the mercantile service, and seen their immobility when a vessel was once largely grounded. So long as insurance covers the vessel and the cargo is insured, there can be hoped for by a captain or crew. He thought that the cargo-master should not be paid till the vessel arrived at its destination, and that the law of the road should be enforced on the owners.

Some observations having been made by the President, and the under-secretary (Mr. Fox),

Mr. Chadwick said that the loss of life was a fault, and that owners should be responsible. It would be to their interest, as it would save them and others from the expense of litigation.

The President, having made some observations as to the doubtful nature of some of the statistics adduced, said it was not in his power to grant the Royal Commission as recommended, but that he would refer the subject his best attention.—Daily News, February 25.

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CITY AND SUBURBAN FREEHOLDS.
Sole by public auction at the Rooms, Pitt-street, at 11 o'clock, half-past 11 o'clock, morning.

WOOLLOOMOOLOO AND FORBES-STREETS.—
Shed and Family Hotel, at corner of these streets, adjoining the properties of Mr. Donovan and Mrs. Simmons.
For particular sale. Title undisputed, and possession given to the purchaser.

ASHFIELD.—Six acres on the Liverpool Road, opposite Mr. Woodhouse's house and grounds, together with cottages, orchard, &c.
By order of the mortgagees.

PARAMATTA RIVER.—Willingoughby House and grounds (4 acres), opposite Birchgrove, at West-head, Paramatta River, and known as the property of G. R. Mann, Esq., Birchgrove, near the bridge.
By order of the mortgagees.

RICHARDSON AND WRENCH.
WILLOUGHBY HOUSE AND GROUNDS, GREENWICH.
PARAMATTA RIVER.
Opposite Birch Grove, Balaclava, the Property and Residence of J. L. Montieloro, Esq.

FAMILY RESIDENCE. with Garden and Grounds, containing an area of upwards of 4 acres, having deep water frontage and wharf at Ball's Head Bay, Paramatta River, known as the Property of Captain G. R. Mann.

RICHARDSON AND WRENCH HAVE RECEIVED instructions from the MORTGAGEE to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, THIS DAY, 27th April, at 11 o'clock,
All that piece of land, containing 4 acres 2 rods and 5 perches, together with the site of a house, situated on the Paramatta River, with extensive frontage to Ball's Head Bay, together with that commodious stone-built four-roomed residence.
WILLOUGHBY HOUSE.
The former residence of G. R. Mann, Esq.
The house is built of Ashlar stone, and has balconies and verandas on each side. The site is commanded extensive magnificent views of the Paramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, the harbour, north shore, and surrounding lands. It contains 5 fine rooms, and two in the basement, storeroom, detached kitchen, and servant's room. There are two good walls of excellent permanent masonry.
About one acre and a half of garden ground planted with fruit trees &c. In this site is the fine stone of the grounds extend to the deep waters of the bay, on which there is a capital well-sheltered boat wharf.
There is also on the land a stone-built cottage of four rooms.
This beautifully-situated property will be sold in one or more lots to suit purchasers.
Willingoughby House is a substantially-built complete residence, fitted with every family convenience. The position was an early selection by Captain Mann, and enjoys the whole of the romantic harbour view and the exquisite views for which this site is so famed. The whole must be positively sold on the above date, and gentlemen desirous of purchasing a first-class marine residence with grounds in a desirable position are earnestly requested to inspect the property.
This unquestionable, full particulars of which can be obtained on application to B. W. ROBBEADS, Esq., Solicitor-at-law, 100, Pitt-street.
Plan on view at the Rooms.
Terms at sale.

ASHFIELD.
BEAUTIFUL BLOCK OF LAND, UPWARDS OF SIX ACRES, on the Liverpool Road, opposite the residence and grounds of E. H. WOODHOUSE, Esq., near the Railway Station, together with fruit-bearing Orchard, trenched Garden, Two Cottages, &c.

PREEMPTORY SALE.
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE.
RICHARDSON AND WRENCH HAVE RECEIVED instructions from the MORTGAGEE to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, THIS DAY, 27th April, at 11 o'clock,
All that piece of land, containing 6 acres and 21 perches, with extensive frontage to the Liverpool Road, Ashfield, together with the site of a house, containing, comprising 2 cottages, &c. The land is enclosed, and, with the exception of about 1 acre, is in cultivation as a market garden, orchard, and vineyard. There are upwards of 100 trees, fruit trees, a number of vines, strawberry beds, &c. There is abundance of water on the land from springs, &c.
This situation of parties desirous to secure a fine and eligible site in this locality, for health resorting or would form out-buildings for more substantial rural premises, the site being worthy of a superior residence.
Plan on view at the Rooms.
Terms, liberal.

MANEROODISTRICT.
NORTH SOUTH WALES.
Preliminary Notice.
For Positive Sale.
The following MAGNIFICENT PASTORAL PROPERTIES, belonging to WILLIAM BRADLEY, Esq., situated in the Manerood District, and comprising a large area of the finest sheep country in the colony, viz. —
COOLINGDOWN
DARLING
and
MYALLA HEAD STATIONS, including the undammed run, viz. JILLAMABONG, COOMA, COOTALRANCA, ISLAND JARRE, TRAE TRAE, and other smaller stations, also UPPER and LOWER ROCK FLAT, ORRETHRE HILL, TON GROGGMAN, MILADY'S FINGERS, COOMA CREEK (cattle station), and ROCKY RANGER.
Together with their valuable improvements, and 51,363 SHEEP, more or less, and 708 CATTLE, more or less.

BIRKENLUKE
and
MAVERICK HEAD STATIONS, including the following, viz. —
WANGELLICE, GUNNOM, BOGO BOK, MOUNT PLEASANT, and DOODLE RUNS, together with 37,466 SHEEP, more or less, and 600 CATTLE, more or less.
Terms, liberal.

RICHARDSON AND WRENCH HAVE RECEIVED instructions from WILLIAM BRADLEY, Esq., of LINDSEY, DARLING POINT, to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on TUESDAY, the 26th day of June, at 11 o'clock,
The above magnificent and valuable pastoral properties, full particulars of which, with classification of the same, and complete list of improvements, &c., &c., will be published in a few days.

ALFAPAS.
FOR POSITIVE SALE.
(WITHOUT RESERVE.)
By order of the GOVERNMENT of NEW SOUTH WALES.
The whole of the flock of
ALFAPAS AND LILAMAS,
Now depasturing in the Manerood District, at the GRAY'S, Esq., at WINGELLO PARK, on the GREAT SOUTHERN ROAD, about equidistant between the Towns of
BERRIMA AND GOULBURN.
PRELIMINARY NOTICE.
RICHARDSON AND WRENCH HAVE RECEIVED instructions from the HON. J. B. WILSON, MINISTER FOR LANDS, to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on FRIDAY, the 29th day of June, at 11 o'clock, on FRIDAY, the whole of the Government flock of alpacas and llamas, in lots from 3 to 5 each. Full particulars of the flock will be published in a few days.
Terms, cash.
To Partise Furnishing, Dealers, and others.

M. R. H. VAUGHAN has received instructions to sell by auction, THIS DAY, 27th instant, at 12 o'clock, at his Rooms, 141, King-street East, Superior and complete stock of furniture, consisting of tables, chairs, iron bedsteads, single and double, bedding, kitchen utensils, and effects.

In the Insolvent Estate of JOHN MORRIS, Seller, Sutton Forest, Farmer.

JAMES POWELL has received instructions from R. H. Semple, Esq., official assignee, to sell by auction, at 11 o'clock, on THURSDAY, the 2nd day of May, at the residence of the above-named bankrupt, 9 Lady-street, the premises and contents thereof, consisting to horses, and in good condition; one good strong harness, dry, and harness. Also, one plough.
Terms, cash.

QUEENSLAND.
ROCKHAMPTON.
W. REA AND CO. HAVE BEEN authorised with instructions to sell by public auction, at their Rooms, Dumfries-street, Rockhampton, on MONDAY, the 7th day of May, at 12 o'clock,
That valuable first-class sheep station, known as
KOOLOON.

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